



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

July 17, 2020

AL TSA: ALF #2020-031
AL TSA: AFH #2020-032
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-024
AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-023
AL TSA: ESF #2020-024
COVID TESTING

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent

In recent weeks, the State of Washington has been working through the process of testing residents and staff in all Nursing Homes, as well as the residents and staff of memory care units in Assisted Living Facilities (ALF). We are continuing to work through this process at this time, but are also aware that many of you have questions regarding the potential testing for the rest of the long-term care programs in our state.

We greatly appreciate your patience as we work through the many details involved in the rollout of testing every resident, client, and staff in our facilities and agencies in Washington.

Residential Care Services has provided data from the AL TSA on-line survey responses for determining the number of test kits and PPE needed by your agency or facility to complete the testing to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). A DOH representative will contact you to confirm the numbers we have from the survey and to ensure that the correct amount of supplies and test kits are provided for you.

More planning is underway to determine the most effective strategies to complete the one time point prevalence testing in ALFs and appreciate your participation in this process.

One of the strategies being considered for Adult Family Homes (AFH), Certified Community Residential Services and Support (CCRSS) agencies and facilities, Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF), and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) is a more targeted testing approach. For example, rather than statewide testing of all residents and all staff for a particular provider type, testing would be targeted to a region of the state that is experiencing an outbreak and is at higher risk of community transmission.

While we do not have every detail available at this time related to testing in your program, here is the information we do have:

- The goal is to begin testing AFH, CCRSS, ESF, and ICF using a targeted strategy.
- Complete ALF testing by the end of August.
- We hope to have a standing order in the state that will allow for testing of staff in facilities to alleviate the burden of staff getting an order from a primary care physician.
- The state will cover the cost of testing for facility and agency staff.

Please contact DOH-CBTS@doh.wa.gov for questions related to COVID testing for residents, clients, and staff.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"